

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00218 031612Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 DODE-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 IO-11 OES-05 FMC-02 CG-00 DOTE-00 L-03 COME-00

DLOS-04 SAL-01 OFA-01 /056 W
----- 106732

R 031342Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2822

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

UNCLAS MANAMA 0218

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : MARR, BA, SA

SUBJECT : TANKER DEBALLASTING FACILITIES

REF : STATE 46111 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN, OIL DEPARTMENT, BAHRAIN ATTENDED THE 1973 IMCO CONFERENCE ON MARINE POLLUTION AS AN OBSERVER. BAHRAIN IS STILL NOT A MEMBER OF IMCO. BAHRAIN DOES NOT PLAN TO BECOME A MEMBER UNTIL IT HAS A WELL-ENOUGH DEVELOPED ADMINISTRATIVE CADRE TO EFFECTIVELY ENFORCE REGULATIONS AND AGREEMENTS.

2. THE BAHRAIN PETROLEUM COMPANY (BAPCO), WHICH USES THE PORT OF SITRA FOR ITS LOADING AND OFF-LOADING, HAS TAKEN SOME STEPS IN THE PAST FEW YEARS TO PROVIDE LIMITED DE-BALLASTING FACILITIES. ACCORDING TO THE 1974 PORT OF SITRA INFORMATION BOOKLET, "THERE ARE LIMITED FACILITIES FOR THE RECEIPT OF OILY RESIDUES AT THE SITRA WHARVES. VESSELS WHICH REQUIRE TO DISCHARGE BALLAST AT THE SITRA WHARVES MUST INSURE THAT THE BALLAST IS CLEAN PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN THE GULF AREA". THE LIMITED FACILITIES ARE A 10,000 BBL (420,000 GALLON) RECEIVING CAPACITY WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT ANY GIVEN TIME. NEITHER THE DEFENSE FUEL
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PAGE 02 MANAMA 00218 031612Z

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICE, MIDDLE EAST (LOCATED AT AWALI,

BAHRAIN) NOR BAPCO SOURCES ARE AWARE OF ANY PLANS TO EXPAND THE FACILITIES AT SITRA.

3. EMBASSY JIDDA AND/OR CONGEN DHAHRAN MAY WISH TO ADD TO OR MODIFY THE FOLLOWING, BUT ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE DEFENSE FUEL QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICE, MIDDLE EAST, THE SITUATION AT RAS TANURA PORT IS AS FOLLOWS. ACCORDING TO THE 1974 ARAMCO PUBLICATION ON THE PORT OF RAS TANURA, "SINCE THE TERMINAL DOES NOT HAVE FACILITIES TO RECEIVE ANY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF OIL RESIDUES OR OIL BALLAST WATER, TANKERS ARRIVING ALONGSIDE WITH SUCH MATERIALS ON BOARD WILL BE SENT TO ANCHORAGE TO AWAIT FURTHER ORDERS UNLESS THE VESSEL HAS PRIOR CLEARANCE TO LOAD ON TOP OF SUCH MATERIALS OR UNLESS THE SHIP'S MASTER AGREES TO SEGREGATE SUCH MATERIALS IN SEPARATE TANKS". FURTHER, WE ARE ADVISED THAT A RECENT COST ANALYSIS HAS INDICATED THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF DE-BALLASTING FACILITIES IS NOT CONSIDERED ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE AT THIS TIME.

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